

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

539



FROM: Executive Office

SUBMITTAL DATE:
May 8, 2014

SUBJECT: Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan (Plan) Approval and Adopt Resolution 2014-101 Supporting the Plan. (\$0) Districts One/Three. Exempt Pursuant to CEQA.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Find that the Plan is exempt from CEQA according to Sections 15061, 15262, and 15306 of the State CEQA Guidelines;
2. Adopt Resolution 2014-101 in support of the Plan;
3. Adopt the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan; and
4. Direct the Clerk of the Board to deliver the Notice of Exemption to the Office of the County Clerk and the State Office Planning and Research for filing within five (5) working days of this Board hearing.

BACKGROUND:

Summary

In 2002, the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Planning Act (SB 1672) was chaptered into law, establishing the basis by which the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) would administer the State's IRWM Program. Propositions 50 and 84 were approved by the voters in 2002 and 2006 respectively, authorizing a total of \$1.5 billion of State grant funds statewide for IRWM Planning and Programs. Additionally, Proposition 1E was approved by the voters in 2006, authorizing an additional \$300 million in grant funding for stormwater flood management projects that are identified in IRWM Plans.

(Cont. on page 2)

[Signature]
STEVE HORN
Senior Management Analyst

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost:	POLICY/CONSENT (per Exec. Office)
COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NET DISTRICT COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	

SOURCE OF FUNDS: The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)	Budget Adjustment: No
	For Fiscal Year: N/A

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE
BY: *Alex Gann*
Alex Gann

County Executive Office Signature

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Jeffries, seconded by Supervisor Tavaglione and duly carried, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Tavaglione, Stone and Benoit
Nays: None
Absent: Ashley
Date: May 20, 2014
xc: E.O., Recorder

Kecia Harper-Ihem
Clerk of the Board
By: *[Signature]*
Deputy

Prev. Agn. Ref.: | District: 1st & 3rd | Agenda Number:

3-6

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL
BY: AARON C. GETTIS
DATE: 5.8.14

Departmental Concurrence

- A-30
- 4/5 Vote
- Positions Added
- Change Order

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FORM 11: Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan Approval.**

Districts One/Three, Exempt pursuant to CEQA.

DATE: May 8, 2014

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BACKGROUND:

Summary (continued)

In 2007, Rancho California Water District, Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and the County of Riverside signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by which the three agencies agreed to form a Regional Watershed Management Group (RWMG) to cooperate and work collaboratively with other stakeholders in the Region toward the completion of an IRWM Plan for the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed. The Upper Santa Margarita Watershed covers Temecula and parts of Menifee, Murrieta, Wildomar, and the unincorporated County of Riverside.

A Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC), with the institutional and fiscal ability to carry out IRWM planning and implementation efforts, was formed to facilitate development of the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed IRWM Plan (Plan). The Plan was completed and adopted in 2007 according to the guidelines pursuant to Chapter 8 of Proposition 50. The 2007 Plan has since provided the framework and procedures used to govern, collaborate, and plan activities, as well as pursue state funding opportunities, within the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed.

In 2009, the RWMG for the Plan entered into a groundbreaking MOU with the RWMG counterparts in San Diego and south Orange Counties, to coordinate IRWM programs within the broader Proposition 84 San Diego Funding Region. Through this agreement, the Proposition 84 Round 5 funds for the San Diego Region were distributed among the IRWM based on a formula considering land use and population. The agreement streamlined future grant applications for each of the funding areas by pre-determining each IRWM Plan's funding share. The Plan was allocated \$8.2 million under the MOU. The RWMG has dispersed approximately half of the grant Proposition 84 Round 5 funds to date. The balance is expected to be received as part of the 2015 Proposition 84 Round 3 solicitation.

In 2012, the Region received a Proposition 84 Round 2 Planning Grant to update the 2007 Plan in accordance with new Plan guidelines and standards issued by DWR in 2012. The 2014 update to the Plan was prepared to better reflect the Region's current issues, objectives, and strategies, as well as to satisfy the requirements of DWR's Planning Grant award and the November 2012 IRWM Proposition 84 and 1E Program Guidelines.

The updated Plan process built upon and enhanced the Region's collaborative efforts to identify integrated and regional opportunities to develop a sustainable water supply through more efficient use of water; the promotion of conjunctive use of existing local water supplies; the protection and improvement of water quality; and to promote overall environmental stewardship. The 2014 Plan is a living document that is expected to be updated periodically, and allows the Region to adapt to changes in needs, regulations, resources, and climate. The success of this Plan relies on the continued collaboration of stakeholders in the IRWM Program throughout the 25-year planning horizon. The complete plan can be viewed at the following website address: <http://www.ranchowater.com/index.aspx?NID=259>

The Plan itself does not lead directly to the implementation of any specific project and does not bind the various stakeholders to any particular course of action; as a result, the Plan is exempt from CEQA under the following provisions:

- Statutory Exemption (15262 for Feasibility and Planning Studies)
- Categorical Exemption (15306-Information Collection and 15061-Review for Exemption)

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Impact on Residents and Businesses

Adopting the Plan will allow the County of Riverside and the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to request funding through Proposition 84 for future water quality projects. Implementation of the projects and strategies identified in the Plan will benefit residents and businesses in the region and improve quality of life and natural resource management.

Attachments:

1. Resolution 2014-101
2. Notice of Exemption
3. Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan Executive Summary (The complete Plan has been distributed in a digital format. Printed copies are available at the Clerk's office & RCFC & WC District office).

2
3 RESOLUTION NO. 2014-101

4
5 **A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE**
6 **COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE SUPPORTING AND ADOPTING THE**
7 **UPPER SANTA MARGARITA WATERSHED INTEGRATED**
8 **REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

9 **WHEREAS**, the Rancho California Water District, County of Riverside, and Riverside County
10 Flood Control and Water Conservation District have partnered by signing a Memorandum of
11 Understanding forming a Regional Water Management Group (RWMG); and


12 **WHEREAS**, working with the stakeholders and partners of the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed
13 the RWMG has prepared an update to the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Integrated Regional Water
14 Management Plan (Plan); and

15 **WHEREAS**, adoption of the Plan in no way commits a participating agency to a financial or any
16 other regulatory obligation and does not legally bind the participating agency to any future activities or
17 specific projects; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the Plan represents all entities significant to water management planning in the area
19 in addressing water resources as well as other interested stakeholders and has provided the framework and
20 procedures used to govern, collaborate, and plan activities, as well as pursue funding opportunities within
21 the Plan's program; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the agencies, partners, and stakeholders are committed to integrated planning efforts
23 in an open and accessible process and have acted in good faith in preparing and implementing the Plan;
24 and

25 **WHEREAS**, the Plan will help secure significant new funding for resources in the Upper Santa
26 Margarita Watershed through the California Department of Water Resources, The Safe Drinking Water,
27 Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition
28 84) (Public Resources Code section 75001 *et seq.*), and other funding sources through the Plan process;
now, therefore,

FOR APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL
BY:  S-8-14
DATE
AARON C. GETTIS

Notice of Exemption

California State Clearinghouse Handbook

Form D

To: X Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 222
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: County of Riverside
4080 Lemon Street, 4th Floor
Riverside, CA 92501
Original Negative Declaration/Notice of
Determination was routed to County
Clerks for posting on.

X County Clerk
County of Riverside
2724 Gateway Drive
Riverside, CA 92507

5/21/14 kb
Date Initial

Project Title: One Water One Watershed (OWOW) 2.0 Integrated Regional Watershed Management (IRWM) Plan

Project Location – Specific:

The OWOW 2.0 IRWM Plan includes city and county areas within the Santa Ana River Watershed. See attached watershed map.

Project location – City: N/A

Project Location – County: Riverside/Orange/San Bernardino

Project Description:

The proposed project includes the adoption of the updated OWOW 2.0 IRWM Plan. The OWOW 2.0 IRWM Plan was updated in 2014 and identifies potential projects and priorities for a watershed region to manage the water resources for the Santa Ana River Watershed. The OWOW 2.0 IRWM Plan reflects a collaborative planning process that addresses all aspects of water resources in the Santa Ana River Watershed. It includes planning of future water demands and supplies over a 20-year time horizon within the watershed as a hydrologic and interconnected system. The OWOW 2.0 IRWM Plan represents collaboration across jurisdictions, and political boundaries involving multiple agencies, stakeholders, individuals, and groups; and attempts to address the issues and differing perspectives of all the entities involved through mutually beneficial solutions. The OWOW 2.0 IRWM Plan reflects a new suite of innovative approaches that instead of relying solely on continued imported water deliveries to meet growing water demands in the region, is leading with a water demand reduction strategy. The OWOW 2.0 IRWM Plan does not bind the various agencies to any specific projects and will not legally bind any future activities related to water resources through this plan. However, the OWOW 2.0 IRWM Plan does help create a framework and procedures to collaborate for future water management planning, as well as helping secure new funding resources for potential future activities.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Riverside

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15306 – Information Collection; Sec. 15061 – Common Sense Exemption.
- Statutory Exemptions. State CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15262 – Feasibility and Planning Studies.

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is exempt from the provisions of CEQA specifically by the State CEQA Guidelines as identified below. The project will not result in any specific or general exceptions to the use of the categorical exemptions as detailed under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2. The project will not cause any impacts to scenic resources, historic resources, or unique sensitive environments. Further, no unusual circumstances or potential cumulative impacts would occur that may reasonably create an environmental

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impact. The project as proposed only includes the approval and adoption of the OWOW 2.0 IRWM Plan, which acts as a long-range planning tool for future water management practices; no environmental impacts are anticipated to occur.

- Section 15262 – Feasibility and Planning Studies Statutory Exemption. CEQA does not apply to feasibility or planning studies that will not have a legally binding effect on any future activities. The OWOW 2.0 IRWM Plan is intended to create improved processes and a framework for how to improve water management practices. It is effectively a planning study that will not, either directly or indirectly, lead to any physical environmental impacts.
- Section 15306 – Information Collection Categorical Exemption. This Categorical Exemption allows for informational gathering purposes that will not have a serious or major disturbance on any environmental resources. As discussed prior, the proposed adoption of the OWOW 2.0 IRWM Plan creates a framework for future water management planning that will help aid in improving water resources and supplies throughout the Region. The project will not cause any environmental disturbances and will not lead to any direct or indirect environmental impacts.
- Section 15061 (b) (3) – Common Sense Exemption. With certainty, there is no possibility that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment. The OWOW 2.0 IRWM Plan creates a framework for future water management planning that will potentially help aid in improving water resources and supplies throughout the Region. It would not lead to any direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts. Therefore, in no way would the project as proposed have the potential to cause a significant environmental impact and the project is exempt from further CEQA analysis.

Based upon the identified exemptions above, the County of Riverside hereby concludes that no physical environmental impacts are anticipated to occur and the project as proposed is exempt under CEQA. No further environmental analysis is warranted.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Steve Horn **Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** 951.955.1110

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

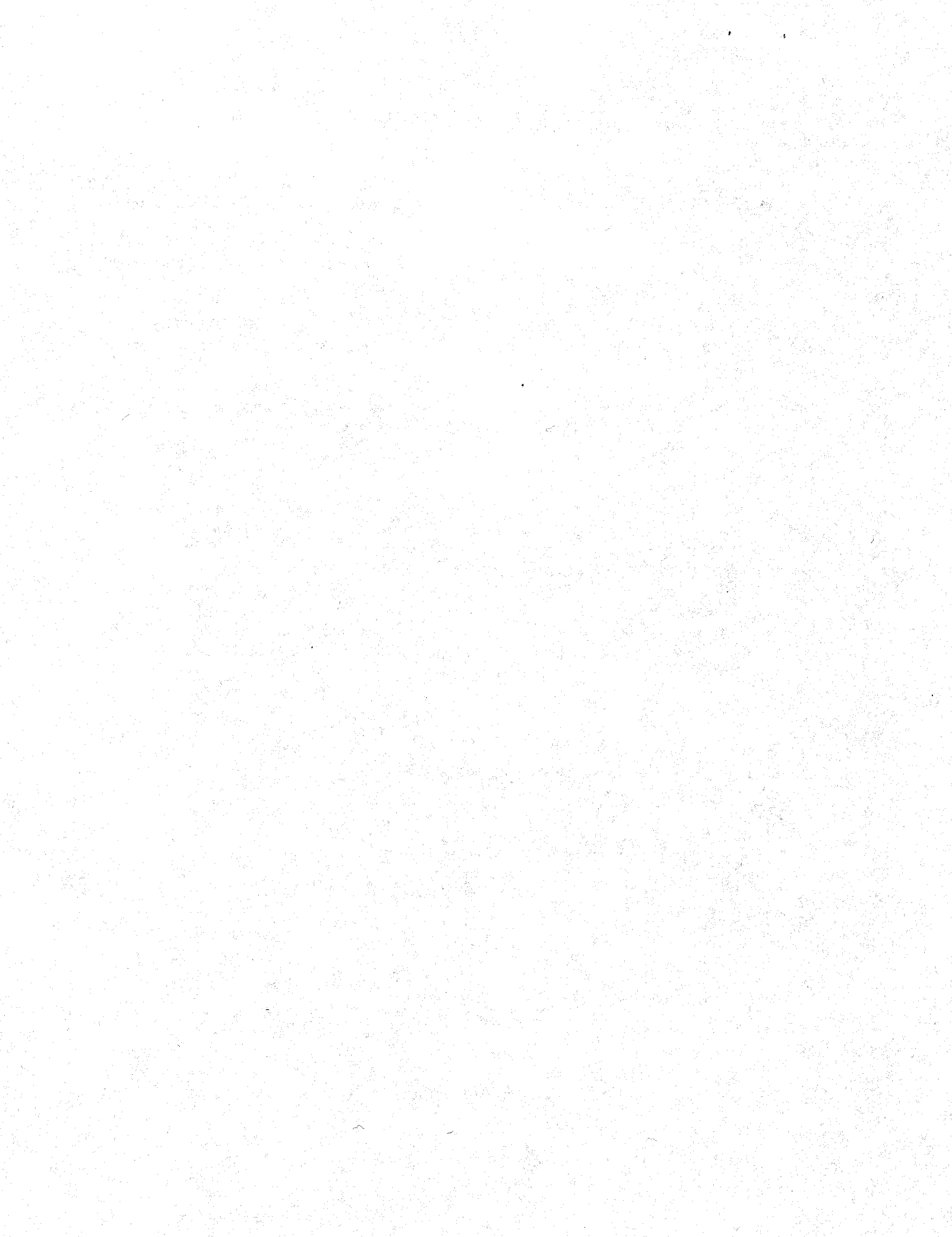
Signature: Alex Lann Date: 4/29/14 Title: Deputy County Executive
Officer

Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Signed by Applicant

Attachment



Preface

The Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Region's (Region) open spaces, beautiful landscapes, and treasured biological resources make up a region of unique character. The Region is a model of opportunity for planners, managers, and leaders to invest in sustainable water management strategies that will preserve and protect these valuable resources for future generations.

The Region's growing population and housing needs challenge water resources managers to work collaboratively to meet increasing demands while protecting water resources. Achieving a balance between support for a rapidly growing economy and preservation of the rural character and unique sense of place requires a careful strategy to integrate diverse priorities and gain support from stakeholders and the public. In 2007, the Region developed its first IRWM Plan to develop local water supply sources while addressing the need for water quality, environmental protection, and recreational and open space opportunities. As a result of the development of the IRWM Plan, the region was awarded a Proposition 84, Round 1 Implementation Grant in 2011 for implementation of the following projects: Vail Lake Stabilization and Conjunctive Use Project, Agricultural Irrigation Efficiency Program, Water Quality Enhancements in Riverside County, and Implementing Nutrient Management in the Santa Margarita River Watershed – Phase 1. Collectively, the project benefits include more than 6,000 acre-feet per year in conserved water, water quality enhancements, and sustainable agriculture. In addition, the Region's stakeholders continued to meet as a part of the IRWM Program to coordinate planning efforts on a Regional level.

In 2012, the Region received a Proposition 84, Round 2 Planning Grant to update its 2007 IRWM Plan in accordance with new Plan guidelines and standards issued by DWR in 2012. The 2014 IRWM Plan Update was prepared to better reflect the Region's current issues, objectives and strategies, as well as to satisfy the requirements of DWR's Planning Grant award and the November 2012 IRWM Proposition 84 and 1E Program Guidelines. The 2014 IRWM Plan Update documents the current IRWM Program and processes that have evolved since the 2007 Plan was developed, and is organized according to the table on the next page.

The 2014 IRWM Plan Update process built upon and enhanced the Region's collaborative efforts to ensure a sustainable water supply through more efficient use of water, protect and improve water quality, and promote environmental stewardship by accomplishing the following:

- Include the newly added portion of the San Mateo Watershed in the Region's planning
- Enhance and improve outreach to disadvantaged communities and Tribal stakeholders to help the Region to develop an increased understanding of the needs and interests of these communities
- Increase overall stakeholder participation in the IRWM Plan Update
- Improve the IRWM Program website to facilitate Regional information sharing
- Increase inter- and intra-regional collaboration through integrated project development

- Update and refine Regional needs, goals and objectives
- Improve understanding of Regional climate change vulnerabilities and identify adaptation and mitigation strategies
- Refine and enhance project development, selection and prioritization
- Establish a better understanding of the Region's water resources through implementation of technical studies

DWR Plan Standard	2014 IRWM Plan Update Chapter
Governance	Chapter 1: Regional Planning, Governance, Outreach and Coordination
Region Description	Chapter 2: Region Description
Objectives	Chapter 3: Objectives and Priorities
Resources Management Strategies	Chapter 4: Regional Water Management Strategies
Integration	Chapter 1: Regional Planning, Governance, Outreach and Coordination Chapter 5: Projects
Project Review Process	Chapter 5: Projects
Impacts and Benefits	Chapter 4: Regional Water Management Strategies
Plan Performance and Monitoring	Chapter 6: Implementation
Data Management	Chapter 6: Implementation
Finance	Chapter 6: Implementation
Technical Analysis	Chapter 1: Regional Planning, Governance, Outreach and Coordination
Relation to Local Water Planning	Chapter 1: Regional Planning, Governance, Outreach and Coordination
Relation to Local Land Use Planning	Chapter 1: Regional Planning, Governance, Outreach and Coordination
Stakeholder Involvement	Chapter 1: Regional Planning, Governance, Outreach and Coordination
Coordination	Chapter 1: Regional Planning, Governance, Outreach and Coordination Chapter 6: Implementation
Climate Change	Chapter 1: Regional Planning, Governance, Outreach and Coordination Chapter 2: Region Description Chapter 3: Objectives and Priorities Chapter 4: Regional Water Management Strategies Chapter 5: Projects Chapter 6: Implementation

The 2014 IRWM Plan Update is intended to be used as a tool by the Region's stakeholders to take on the challenge of turning the opportunities provided by this unique Region into sustainable water management practices. Implementation of the projects and strategies identified in the Plan will benefit residents and businesses in the Region and improve quality of life and natural resource management. The 2014 IRWM Plan Update is a living document that is expected to be updated periodically, and allows the Region to adapt to changes in needs, regulations, resources and climate. The success of this Plan relies on the continued participation of stakeholders in the IRWM Program throughout the 25-year planning horizon.